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Summary record of the 63rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 18 May 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Ms. Incera (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Costa Rica)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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98-80658 (E)

Agenda item 142: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

In the absence of Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Ms. Incera (Costa Rica), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 126: Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (*continued*) (A/49/714 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, A/49/867 and A/49/943; A/51/777; A/52/819 and A/52/865)

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Agenda item 142: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/51/957; A/52/407, A/52/810, A/52/858, A/52/860 and A/52/897; A/C.5/52/37, A/C.5/52/44 and Corr.1, A/C.5/52/49, A/C.5/52/50 and A/C.5/52/52)

1. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) and the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters (A/52/815), expressed the hope that the final performance report to be submitted in early 1999 would contain detailed information, particularly on the issues raised in the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/52/868). His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern about the composition of the teams that had conducted negotiations with those troop-contributing countries that had opted for wet-lease arrangements (para. 6). He drew attention in particular to the Advisory Committee's observation that the use of gratis personnel of the same nationality as the troop-contributing countries in the mission area created a potential conflict of interest and might call into question the fairness of the results of the negotiations. An explanation from the Secretariat would be appreciated. The Secretariat should also inform the Committee of measures taken to avoid double payments for items that would also be covered under the new wet-lease arrangements (para. 7).

2. He welcomed the corrective measures taken by the Secretariat to improve inventory control and assets management (para. 8). As the Advisory Committee attached importance to having a complete unified inventory database, he proposed that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to take appropriate action, as a matter of priority, to that end.

3. His delegation noted with concern that, according to document A/52/792 (para. 6 (c)), property worth $68 million – equal to about 20 per cent of the inventory value – had been written off or lost. That raised serious questions about effective control and proper management of United Nations property. The Secretariat should provide detailed information on the reasons for such write-offs and losses. In future, such information should be provided in the final disposition of assets of all peacekeeping operations, as requested by the Advisory Committee.

4. Referring to annex III of the same report, he noted that, in general, the inventory value of property sold to the Implementation Force, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the Mine Action Centre far exceeded that of the property auctioned. It was also not clear how the value of medium vehicles could exceed that of heavy vehicles, particularly in the light of the final disposition of assets shown in annex I. The Secretariat

should explain the rationale for such decisions and actions. The discrepancies between the auctioned and inventory value of desktop and laptop computers and printers should also be explained.

5. The inventory value of some items sold to the Implementation Force was either equal to or greater than the sale value. For example, light and medium vehicles had been sold to the Force at the original inventory value, and 42 photocopiers had been sold at a price higher than the inventory value. The Secretariat should explain how equipment that had been used for years could retain its original value. His delegation fully agreed with the Advisory Committee that the auction sales had not been effective and that corrective measures must be taken. The Secretariat should also indicate whether the quality of the property mentioned in the report actually corresponded to the quantity mentioned in the inventory.

6. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that he was concerned about some of the points raised in the Advisory Committee's report (A/52/868). Paragraph 6 of that report indicated that negotiations with troop-contributing countries had been conducted by gratis personnel, nearly all of whom had been nationals of one or the other of the three major troop contributors. Clearly, that situation had given rise to a conflict of interest. He was also concerned to note that, in the absence of an elaborate accounting system, there was a high probability that some items purchased for peacekeeping operations would be paid for twice when they were also covered under the new wet-lease arrangements. Paragraph 16 of the report indicated that UNPF property with an inventory value of $67.7 million had been sold for the disappointing sum of $47.7 million. He wondered whether the procedures for the auctioning of United Nations peacekeeping assets could be improved. Lastly, he asked how $56.7 million worth of UNPF property could have been written off, as noted in paragraph 17, and what corrective measures would be applied to prevent the recurrence of such situations.

7. **Mr. Thorne** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associate countries of Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Norway, said that peacekeeping was a key instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security, which was the primary role of the United Nations. He welcomed the development of more multi-functional peacekeeping, of which the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) was a good example. European Union countries had contributed thousands of troops and police officers to peacekeeping operations, as well as more than 38 per cent of the total cost of such operations. The most effective administrative, budgetary and financial arrangements must be made for peacekeeping operations, and the Organization's operational capacity to maintain international peace and security must be maintained and improved through effective planning, deployment and management of such operations. The phasing out of gratis personnel would require transitional arrangements that would minimize disruption and loss of expertise.

8. He welcomed the progress made in processing compensation claims for death and disability sustained by peacekeeping troops, as reported in document A/C.5/52/50, as well as the Secretary-General's efforts to obtain assurances from Member States regarding the amounts payable by them to the beneficiaries, pursuant to section II, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 51/218 E. The new procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment were far superior to the old ones, and it was unfortunate that the Secretary-General had not submitted a report on their application in time for consideration at the current session. Moreover, the Phase IV Working Group had requested a report from the Secretariat on the financial implications of the retroactive application of the new procedures. The European Union had noted, the previous year, that neither the budgets nor the performance reports for individual peacekeeping operations contained information on the implementation of those provisions of the new procedures that related to environmental and operational mission factors. He asked why the Secretary-General had not yet begun to include standardized information on those provisions in all budget proposals. A solution must also be found to the problem of write-offs from past missions, to which the old system still applied.

9. He reiterated the European Union's concern at the slow progress of procurement reform in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management. He commended the Secretariat for its efforts to develop a new field assets control system within the emerging field mission logistics system, since those systems could significantly reduce costs and staffing requirements while improving equipment management and logistics support. A projection by the Secretariat of future staffing needs following the introduction of new procedures and technology would be useful.

10. The proper management of peacekeeping assets and their coordination with procurement were preconditions for increasing Member States' confidence in the Organization's use of peacekeeping resources. Accordingly, the existence

of the United Nations Logistics Base must be based on sound practical considerations.

11. European Union countries paid their peacekeeping contributions in full, on time and without conditions, and considered it unacceptable that other countries should fail to do likewise. The European Union's proposed revisions to the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations had been introduced as far back as January 1996. That proposal would result in a more equitable and more transparent scale that would adjust automatically to changed economic circumstances while continuing to take into account the needs of Member States with below-average per capita incomes. It would be helpful if updated information on the relationship between peacekeeping shares and per capita income could be made available immediately in the form of a conference room paper. The peacekeeping scale should be updated to eliminate the anomaly whereby a few countries with above-average per capita gross national product (GNP) enjoyed an undeserved advantage at the expense of other Member States.

12. Lastly, the financial reform proposals submitted previously by the European Union included a system of payment incentives and penalties and a suggestion that the Financial Regulations should be amended to ensure that Article 19 of the Charter took effect when a Member State actually accumulated more than two years' worth of arrears. The Committee on Contributions would consider those issues at its forthcoming session; he looked forward to its conclusions.

13. **Ms. Duschner** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that a central storage facility for United Nations peacekeeping assets would be needed for the foreseeable future, since surplus equipment from past peacekeeping missions should be reused in new or ongoing missions. The need to maintain a limited range of essential *matériel* and start-up kits for missions had been demonstrated in the case of MINURCA, whose establishment within the Security Council's 19-day deadline had been made possible, in part, by the airlifting of essential vehicles and telecommunications equipment from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. The maintenance of a limited range of *matériel* at a central logistics depot was therefore valuable in terms of improved operational response capacity and cost savings. She supported the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning the Logistics Base, which could play a useful role within the field mission logistics system and should receive the necessary funding.

14. The backlog of death and disability claims to be processed had been reduced from 564 in May 1997 to fewer than 90. She welcomed the Secretariat's quarterly report on the subject, but felt that it could be more informative. The claims referred to in those reports were claims which had been verified by the Field Administration and Logistics Division; she asked whether an additional category could be included, indicating how many claims had been processed by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts.

15. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said he was surprised that the issue of the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations had been raised, as it was not on the agenda of the current part of the resumed session. A number of General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 1874 (S-IV) and 3101 (XXVIII), had laid down important guidelines and principles concerning that scale. The differentiation between the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget in the apportionment of expenditures must be maintained, since the financing of peacekeeping operations ought to reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, and it was reasonable to presume, based on economic realities, that more developed countries had a greater capacity to pay for peacekeeping than less developed ones. The existing system, which divided expenditures among the four groups, should be institutionalized, and the special scale for peacekeeping operations should be retained, according to the principle of collective but differentiated responsibility.

16. **Mr. Chen Yue** (China) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Clearly, the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations was a very important issue. However, it was not on the agenda for the second part of the resumed session, and should therefore be addressed at an appropriate time in the future. China's position on that question remained unchanged.

17. ***Mr. Sial*** *(Pakistan) also supported the statement made* by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Committee's agenda was already too full; adding items would only complicate the work of the Committee.

18. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) expressed his delegation's full support for the statement made by the representative of Indonesia. It was extremely important to differentiate between the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations and that for the regular budget. For the time being, there was no need to open a debate on the scale of assessments for peacekeeping operations.

19. **Mr. Thorne** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that he had merely reminded

Committee members that a package of proposals put forward by the European Union in 1996 had not been considered. He had then referred to two elements of that package, one regarding Article 19 of the Charter and another on eliminating one of the anomalies in the peacekeeping scale. However, he had not suggested reopening the debate or taking a particular course of action. As to his request for a conference room paper, he was surprised that any member of the Committee would object to receiving updated information.

20. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) supported the statement by the representative of Indonesia and added that the request for a conference room paper was not appropriate, since the scale of assessments was not on the agenda of the second part of the resumed session. The Committee had more immediate concerns to address, and any updating of information should be done under the relevant agenda items.

21. **Mr. Yeo** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), replying to the representative of the United Kingdom, said that the Secretariat's reports concerning the report of the Phase IV Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment and the initial implementation of the new arrangements for contingent-owned equipment were being finalized. The Advisory Committee would review the report of the Phase IV Working Group and the related report of the Secretary-General. A comprehensive response to the inventory-related questions raised by the representative of Pakistan would be provided the following day.

22. In reply to the representative of Canada, he said that, as a matter of course, death and disability claims were submitted for payment as soon as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations certified them. Occasionally, they were returned to the Department because of discrepancies in certification or incomplete documentation. In instances where no cash was available in a mission account, claims were included under accounts payable. In most cases, every effort was made to honour payment even if that entailed short-term borrowing from other missions. For the time being, the Division had no intention of including an additional category, whose utility was questionable. However, further consideration would be given to the idea. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations was preparing a consolidated response to the other questions raised during the meeting.

23. **Mr. Boynton** (United States of America) said that his delegation saw no problem in acceding to the request for a conference room paper and proposed that it should be issued under agenda item 142 (b).

24. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/52/810). The original estimate had been $7,875,000, and expenditures for the period had totalled $5,349,000. The resulting unencumbered balance was due primarily to lower expenditures under premises, transport operations and miscellaneous supplies and services. The proposal being submitted to the General Assembly, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee, was to take a decision on the application of the unencumbered balance.

25. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget of the Logistics Base for the period from July 1998 to July 1999 (A/52/858), he said that the proposed budget for that period amounted to $7,141,800, including a non-recurrent cost of $829,900 for the completion of start-up kits. Start-up would include the purchase of vehicles, observation equipment and miscellaneous supplies. The proposed budget provided for a complement of 20 international staff and 28 locally recruited staff. Annex XI contained detailed information on various staffing changes, including an increase in field service personnel from 6 to 10 in order to accommodate four technicians to operate the satellite relay facility. Another proposal concerned the elimination of the resident auditor's post and replacement of the auditor by a legal adviser, whose functions were outlined in annex V.

26. The information that had been provided in response to General Assembly resolution 52/1, paragraph 4, which requested the preparation of a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the operation of the Logistics Base, was contained in annex VII. Information on the use of the Base by other United Nations agencies and programmes was given in annex VIII. Information on the role of the Base within the United Nations logistical support strategy was contained in annex IX. Annex X was a progress report on the clearance of the backlog of inventory, while annex XII provided detailed information on the communications relay system and its functions.

27. The action being recommended to the General Assembly included approval of the cost estimate of $7,141,800 and a decision to apply the unencumbered balance of $2,025,800 to the resources required for the period from July 1998 to June 1999 and to prorate the balance of $5,116,000 among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets. The Assembly would also be requested to approve the resourcing policy proposed in section VIII of document A/51/905, regarding the inclusion in future liquidation budgets of provision for the cost of repair, refurbishment and preservation equal to 30 per cent

of the total depreciated value of the equipment to be transferred to the Base.

28. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits (A/C.5/52/50), he said that the document was essentially a quarterly report on progress made in clearing the backlog in death and disability claims. As at 31 March 1998, there had been a backlog of 90 claims, representing a significant improvement over the figures of 285 for 31 December and 564 for 19 May 1997.

29. The Secretary-General's note on the proposed budgetary requirements of each peacekeeping operation for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/C.5/52/44) was an update of budgetary information provided earlier. The total estimated requirement was $958,028,000. The Secretary-General's note on the proposed budgetary requirements of each peacekeeping operation for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/C.5/52/52) provided the same type of information. The estimated requirement for the period from July 1998 to June 1999, including the requirement for MINURCA, was $825,957,500.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

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Summary record of the 64th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 19 May 1998, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Incera (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Costa Rica)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Agenda item 114: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

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98-80664 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Ms. Incera (Costa Rica), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 142: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/51/965, A/52/30, A/52/837 and Corr.1, A/52/838, A/52/892; A/C.5/51/52/Rev.1)

Agenda item 114: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/52/698, A/52/709 and Corr.1, A/52/710, A/52/823, A/52/853 and A/52/890; A/C.5/52/43)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the use of support account resources for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (A/52/838), recalled that in its resolution 50/221 B, the General Assembly had authorized an amount of $30,534,400 for the period in question. Expenditures had amounted to $28,066,000, resulting in an unutilized balance of $2,468,400, which was due in large part to staff cost savings.

2. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on support account requirements for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/52/837 and Corr.1), he said that the General Assembly was being asked to approve the support account estimate of $39,409,400 for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999; to take a decision to apply the unencumbered balance of $2,468,400 for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 to the resources required for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999; and to take a decision to prorate the balance of $36,941,000 among the individual active peacekeeping operations to meet the requirements of the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

3. The Secretary-General was proposing a net increase of 23 posts for the support account. The request for the funding of three posts for the secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had been withdrawn, in keeping with the Fifth Committee's decision that those posts would be funded from the regular budget.

4. Of the 20 proposed new posts, eight were requested for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters; one for the Civilian Police Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; two for the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in view of the significant number of investigations conducted by that Office; and one General Service post for the Contributions Section of the Financial Management Office of the Department of Management, in view of that Section's heavy workload.

5. Lastly, following the in-depth evaluation and comprehensive review of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 106 posts were requested in replacement of gratis personnel. Should the General Assembly authorize those post requests, it was the intention of the Secretary-General to advertise externally those positions which required expertise not available in the Secretariat. For approximately 36 of those positions, the Department's operational requirements would further necessitate the recruitment of officers in active military or police service.

6. The Secretariat had carried out the in-depth evaluation and comprehensive review of total human resource requirements for Headquarters backstopping of peacekeeping operations called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/239 A. As a result of the evaluation, it had been decided to tighten the links between the Office of Operations and the Situation Centre, since the latter was the focal point of communications and information between Headquarters and field operations. The Situation Centre had therefore been transferred to the Office of Operations.

7. It had also been concluded, following the review, that there was no overlap between regional divisions of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Office of Operations, and that the division of labour between the two Departments was clear. It had also been decided to consolidate the lessons-learned function with the Policy and Analysis Unit of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and to transfer the Medical Support Unit to the Logistics and Communications Service of the Field Administration and Logistics Division.

8. The Secretariat had provided ACABQ with detailed information on the functions that corresponded to each post in each unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and would be happy to make that information available to the Committee.

9. With regard to the workload related to completed and closed missions, table 3 of the report listed the tasks remaining with respect to such missions for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. It was difficult to forecast when significant work would cease in respect of those missions, since that determination was contingent on, among other things, the submission of outstanding claims for reimbursement from troop-contributing countries, their

review and certification, and the concomitant collection of outstanding assessed contributions from Member States upon which the availability of funds for processing of payments was dependent.

10. Some progress had been made during the previous year towards reducing the backlog of death and disability claims for incidents occurring up to and including 30 June 1997.

11. With regard to the lessons-learned function, he recalled that in its resolution 51/239 B the General Assembly had decided to redeploy three posts, on a temporary basis, for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1998. As part of its review of requirements, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had since identified and redeployed two posts to the Lessons Learned Unit. The redeployments had been reflected in the Secretary-General's support account staffing proposals for the Department for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

12. The overall cost of Headquarters backstopping of peacekeeping operations was higher than the cost of support account resources. For the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, based on directly identifiable and attributable funding of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and those other units which had received support account resources, the overall cost was in the order of $56 million. For the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, the cost was estimated to be in the order of $46.2 million.

13. With regard to non-post requirements, provision of general temporary assistance resources was proposed for the Accounts Division, to deal with the backlog in the processing of inter-office vouchers and the recording of field accounts at Headquarters; for the Administrative Law Unit of the Office of Human Resources Management, to deal with the backlog of peacekeeping-related disciplinary cases and staff appeals; and for the Medical Services Division of the Office of Human Resources Management, to deal with the backlog of peacekeeping-related claims for reimbursement of medical treatment provided after troops had returned to their home countries, and for death and disability cases.

14. Annex I to the report contained information on backstopping support requirements for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, while annex 2 contained information on other Secretariat departments and offices involved in providing backstopping support.

15. **Ms. Laux** (Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Human Resources Management), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the subject of gratis personnel (A/52/698, A/52/709 and Corr.1, A/52/710, A/52/823 and A/C.5/52/43), said that the reports indicated that there had been a 23-per cent reduction in the number of gratis personnel between 31 March and 31 December 1997 and a further reduction in the first quarter of 1998, which had brought the total annual decrease since 31 March 1997 to 26 per cent.

16. The Secretariat had noted the comments of ACABQ regarding the reasons reported by the departments concerned for the acceptance of gratis personnel and would inform the departments of those comments. It had also noted the advice of ACABQ with regard to the revised guidelines for type II gratis personnel and its views on the methodology to be applied and the level of administrative support costs for gratis personnel. Lastly, the Secretariat had taken note of the opinion of ACABQ on the phasing out of the use of gratis personnel in the Secretariat and wished to assure the Fifth Committee that the Office of Human Resources Management would work in close collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to recruit suitable personnel to replace the gratis personnel who were being phased out.

17. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, regretted the delay in the submission of the Secretary-General's report on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/52/837), given that the General Assembly had decided in paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/239, that the report should be submitted no later than 31 March 1998. While the report attempted to reflect the total requirements of human and financial resources from all sources, it ought to have been more focused and analytical, and the assertions it contained were not supported by convincing analysis.

18. The Group of 77 and China wished to reaffirm the need both for adequate funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations and for the immediate conversion of positions occupied by gratis personnel to fully funded temporary posts, in the spirit of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 51/239. They also noted the lack of functional analysis of backstopping requirements. In view of the need to phase out gratis personnel expeditiously and of the current status of peacekeeping operations, however, the Group of 77 and China requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly as a matter of priority detailed information on the job descriptions, functions and workload corresponding to the posts proposed for conversion so that the Assembly could take a decision during its current resumed session on the total level of human and financial resources needed for the conversion of those positions into temporary support account posts.

19. In his view, Secretariat staff should be appointed in a manner consistent with the provisions of Articles 97, 100

and 101 of the Charter and with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. He wished, moreover, to reiterate the principles which had been established in various Assembly resolutions that approved work programmes and mandates must be financed in the manner determined by the General Assembly, and that the Organization's budget should be prepared on a full-cost basis.

20. The high vacancy rate in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations contravened the provisions of paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 51/239, which had reaffirmed earlier resolutions requesting the Secretary-General to fill the vacant support account posts as early as possible. The Secretariat, moreover, continued to use gratis personnel against the vacancies for which United Nations staff should have been recruited and he sought an explanation for its failure to comply with Assembly resolutions.

21. The Group of 77 and China noted with particular concern that the Secretariat continued to assign to gratis personnel the functions referred to in paragraphs 16, 17 and 22 of the Advisory Committee's report on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/51/906), including the processing of various types of claims, such as reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment, third-party claims and death and disability benefits. He regretted the Secretariat's failure to submit the report on the assigning of such functions to personnel occupying approved posts, which the General Assembly had requested in paragraph 26 of resolution 51/239, and the fact that gratis personnel had continued to work in such sensitive and important areas during the current biennium.

22. The Group of 77 and China noted the conclusion in paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report (A/52/837) that the division of labour between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was clear. Hardly any justification had been given for that conclusion, and the Secretariat should submit a detailed analysis showing a clear division of responsibility between the two Departments in order to facilitate consideration of the matter.

23. The Group of 77 and China had also noted that eight new posts had been proposed for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters and two new posts had been proposed for the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Mission Headquarters should be financed through a trust fund, as originally envisaged. Moreover, there was no justification for the creation of two new posts for the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which was the only department that had not been affected by the nearly 10-per cent cut in human and financial resources in the regular budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The Group of 77 and China, however, supported the proposal of ACABQ for the establishment of four new posts for the asset management system.

24. **Mr. Heranan** (Indonesia), also speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that those delegations deeply regretted the late submission of reports on agenda item 114, which had resulted in delays in the submission of the Advisory Committee's report and in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Group of 77 and China wished to reiterate their position that the budgets of the Organization should be submitted in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, indicating the total requirements for all human and financial resources and reflecting all the positions required to carry out the mandated programmes and activities.

25. The Group of 77 and China believed that all gratis personnel who fell outside the scope of paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of General Assembly resolution 51/243 should be phased out expeditiously, and noted with concern the comments of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its report (A/52/890). They endorsed the Advisory Committee's opinion that there should be a clearer demonstration and justification that acceptance of gratis personnel met the requisite criteria, and that practically all functions assigned to gratis personnel should be performed by staff members. The Secretariat should ensure that in future gratis personnel were not accepted because of a failure to recruit staff in an expeditious manner. The Secretary-General should continue to issue quarterly reports, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

26. He noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had informed the Advisory Committee that only Member States would be approached for providing gratis personnel, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/243, and urged the General Assembly to take a decision to that effect. The Secretariat should have planned well in advance for the expeditious phasing out of gratis personnel after the adoption of resolution 51/243; the phase-out plan, in document A/52/710, which provided for the continuation of gratis personnel in the Secretariat until November 1999, was not in conformity with that resolution. He welcomed the information from the Secretariat that gratis personnel could be phased out by the end of December 1998 if adequate resources were provided, and stressed that the Secretariat should be provided with the necessary human and financial resources for carrying out its responsibilities in accordance with the Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

27. The Group of 77 and China had taken note of the Secretary-General's proposal on administrative support costs for gratis personnel in document A/52/823 but saw no rationale in the report for the fundamental change in the Secretary-General's position in documents A/51/688 and Add.1. No expenditure should be incurred from the regular budget for gratis personnel, in accordance with financial regulation 7.2 and financial rule 107.7.

28. He sought clarification on the Advisory Committee's observations in its report (A/52/890, para. 13) about the funding of support costs for gratis personnel in the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) from frozen assets or voluntary contributions. The Secretariat should clarify whether those persons were performing purely technical and operational functions funded through voluntary contributions.

29. **Ms. Duschner** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the establishment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations six years earlier had created a significant capability with which Member States could fulfil their collective responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. That capability must not be allowed to slip away because of a failure of political will. In implementing the General Assembly's decision to phase out gratis military officers, care must be taken that arrangements to replace those officers were in place prior to their departure so that valuable expertise was not lost during the transition. In addition, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be provided with adequate resources to maintain essential functions and retain its capability to expand in response to any future growth in the level of peacekeeping activity.

30. The Department should undertake a fundamental review to determine whether its organization was appropriate to the task before it. The Secretary-General's proposal must provide convincing arguments for maintaining current personnel strength in the face of a significant decline of the level of peacekeeping activity. It remained unclear why those activities could not be accomplished in the absence of specific personnel. The Department's organizational structure should be based on an analysis of the core functions involved in the planning and execution of peacekeeping operations. Elements of that structure might include the provision of effective military, police and political advice to the Secretary-General, planning capacity for current missions and contingencies, the establishment of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, a response capability to permit communications between the United Nations, Member States and field missions at all times, an administrative and logistics support capacity based on function, and a lessons-learned and training coordination capability.

31. On the question of the potential for overlap between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, she sought the views of the Secretariat on the relationship between those departments, given the lead role of the Department of Political Affairs in peace-building and the ability of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide some key resources. There was also a question of the potential for overlap between the work of the Field Administration and Logistics Division and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts. She called upon the Secretariat to make a detailed written brief on the claims process available during the informal consultations. By knowing how that system worked from start to finish, Member States would be in a better position to understand the delays experienced in processing claims.

32. The need for a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, as established in General Assembly resolution 52/12 B, had been vividly displayed during the establishment of the new mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA). With only 19 days to establish the new field mission headquarters, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had deployed many of its own staff, whose normal work had had to be put aside for several weeks.

33. She regretted that the Committee was poorly placed to make an informed decision on the support account because of a lack of time and delays in the issuance of documentation. She wished to see stronger justifications for Secretariat proposals and looked forward to discussing those issues in detail during informal consultations.

34. **Mr. Thorne** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associate countries of Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and also Norway, said that the European Union had already made clear, in its statement on agenda item 142 (a), how committed it was to the primary role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and the role that the Organization's peacekeeping operations could play in that respect. The United Nations must maintain and improve its operational capacity to effectively plan, deploy and manage current and future peacekeeping operations. To that end, the Organization needed a realistic concept of well-coordinated permanent, surge and specialist functions with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and a clear understanding of the division of labour between that Department and other parts of the Secretariat. The

Department of Peacekeeping Operations must maintain the seconded expertise of active military and police personnel which reinforced its unique capabilities. The organizational gains of the past few years must also be preserved. He welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals to improve the rapid deployment capability of the Organization and its resourcing.

35. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations needed a structure and staff that was appropriate for both a high and a low intensity of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The European Union shared the concerns expressed over the inadequacy of the explanations provided thus far with regard to the Secretary-General's proposals for the structure and staffing of the Department and other organizational divisions involved in supporting peacekeeping operations.

36. The European Union agreed with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must be maintained on a sound and secure basis through adequate United Nations funding for appropriate posts. It recalled its frequently stated position that while the regular budget should cover core functions, the support account should be used for non-core needs and to backstop newly created peacekeeping operations. Unfortunately, that distinction did not appear to be reflected in the Secretary-General's report.

37. The European Union accepted the Secretariat's view that there was no direct link between the dollar value of peacekeeping operations and the backstopping workload at Headquarters, but found it hard to believe that a fall from $3.5 billion in 1994 to around $800 million could have had no impact on the Department's workload or on that of other departments working in the same area. The introduction of new information technology and procedures ought to have had some impact on workload and staffing. Many more details were needed of the in-depth review and evaluation called for by the General Assembly, and he recalled the European Union's suggestion of 1997 that the Office of Internal Oversight Services or the Advisory Committee might carry out a review of the workload of posts and functions; accordingly, he welcomed the intention of the Advisory Committee to conduct such a review.

38. It was essential for the United Nations to continue to carry out mandated activities despite the decision to phase out gratis personnel. The European Union was content to see General Assembly resolution 51/243 fully and expeditiously implemented, but believed that the phase-out plan must incorporate transitional arrangements to minimize disruption and loss of continuity and expertise and, above all, to avoid jeopardizing the safety and welfare of the troops in the field.

39. He welcomed the fact that, for the first time, the Committee was being presented with a full-cost budget and a performance report. It was evident, however, that the report contained many gaps which would need to be filled if the Committee was to take a well-informed decision. If the Committee was unable to do so before October 1998, it would need a firm deadline to which it must adhere.

40. The European Union was submitting to the Secretariat a list of detailed written questions to which it hoped to receive answers later in the week.

41. With regard to the Advisory Committee's comments in paragraphs 7 and 8 of its report on financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) (A/52/853) that the new procedures for the reimbursement of claims for contingent-owned equipment should not apply to ONUMOZ, he recalled that the General Assembly had taken a decision, reaffirmed in its resolution 51/218 E and supported by the Phase IV Working Group, that for missions activated prior to 1 July 1996, countries had the option to accept reimbursement under either the new or the old reimbursement methodology. The financial implications of the retrospective application of the new procedures were by no means clear; a comparison between the amount originally estimated for contingent-owned equipment by the Secretariat and the estimated cost of claims under the new procedures did not give a true picture. The European Union was unable to agree with the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General's request for the retrospective application of the new procedures should be denied, but felt that it should apply only to those negotiations on reimbursement which had not yet been concluded. It appreciated the Advisory Committee's warning that there was a risk of double payment and recalled the comments of the Phase IV Working Group in that respect, but believed that the Secretariat should be able to rise to the challenge in a way that was fair to both the United Nations and troop contributors, perhaps by identifying which services were provided by the Organization and adjusting self-sustainment rates accordingly. The Secretariat might wish to consider that matter in the context of the Secretary-General's report on the new procedures, which was eagerly awaited.

42. **Mr. Sklar** (United States of America) said that his delegation agreed with most of the comments which had been made; all delegations were asking for information which had not been provided. There did seem to be an unclear division of labour between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as overlap between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management, and he was concerned that many other

questions might not have been answered in the information provided.

43. His delegation supported that General Assembly resolution 51/243 and was fully committed to the phasing out of gratis personnel, but wanted to ensure that disruption was minimized and there was no loss of continuity or expertise.

44. Given the importance of the decision on the financing of peacekeeping operations and the support account, he was concerned that insufficient information had been provided to Member States, and that the Secretariat had not carried out an in-depth review of its peacekeeping function so that it could explain and justify its needs. The United Nations had the capacity to effectively plan, deploy, sustain and liquidate United Nations peacekeeping operations, and maintaining that capacity was an indispensable element of the Organization's ability to address threats to international peace and security. In order to make intelligent decisions, the Committee needed more comprehensive, complete and integrated information about the current structure, staffing and funding of the peacekeeping organization, a description of the functions it was to carry out in the future, and a plan for structure, staffing and funding in the long and short terms.

45. At present, there was no comprehensive organizational structure, staffing table or budget for the Secretariat components that directly executed or backed up peacekeeping operations; staff that supported peacekeeping operations existed in several departments and funding came from the regular budget, the support account, trust funds and contributions in kind. Member States were being asked to accept funding requests for various peacekeeping functions, and for that purpose, they needed an integrated view of the entire peacekeeping operation. His delegation therefore requested the Secretary-General to provide an organizational chart showing all the components working in Secretariat peacekeeping operations, indicating the relationship between them; a description of the functional role, along with expected outputs or deliverables, of each of the components shown on the chart; an enumeration of how many people were currently funded or were proposed to be funded under the current plan, irrespective of funding source, in each area; identification of the amount and source of funds to pay for all staff by area and funding source; indications of any vacancies that existed in the staffing table; an indication of which positions were currently filled by active duty military, whether gratis or paid, and civilian police officers; and an indication of which positions would be filled by active duty military and civilian police officers if the current transition plan was approved.

46. In the meantime, it might be necessary to adopt an interim funding arrangement for the support account. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/52/892) and suggested that over the next three months the Fifth Committee should work with the Secretariat to obtain the information it needed. His delegation also agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation (para. 15) that $2 million should be approved to facilitate the conversion of 34 gratis positions to temporary posts. By giving the Secretariat three months to develop a comprehensive plan covering the entire peacekeeping function and providing the necessary funds to phase out gratis personnel, the Committee ought to be in a position at the end of that period to take the necessary decisions. His delegation fully supported the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters concept and expected that, along with all other functions, it would be fully funded within the United Nations regular budget.

47. **Mr. Yamagiwa** (Japan) said that the support account requirements for the period starting 1 July 1998 were inextricably linked to the issue of the phasing out of gratis personnel pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 51/243 and 52/220. He noted with regret that the information provided by the Secretariat to the Advisory Committee was insufficiently analytical, so that the Advisory Committee had been able to provide only interim recommendations. He urged the Secretariat to provide explanatory, substantive and analytical information so that the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee could take an intelligent decision on the issue.

48. Japan agreed with ACABQ (A/52/892, para. 10) that a more convincing argument based on a functional analysis of backstopping requirements was needed to support the Secretariat's contention that there was no direct linkage between the total dollar level of all active peacekeeping operations and the backstopping workload performed at Headquarters.

49. Likewise, it was simplistic to argue that there was a clear division of labour between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; in fact, the issue of duplication arose with respect to the funding of posts. It was not justifiable, for instance, to finance all posts in the Peacekeeping Financing Division in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts through the support account. In its next comprehensive review, the Secretariat should make it a priority to address that matter.

50. Regarding the conversion of gratis positions to temporary posts, Japan sought clarification as to whether all

30 of the existing vacancies funded by the support account could actually be utilized for functions other than the original ones. ACABQ was recommending the interim conversion of 34 gratis positions to temporary posts (A/52/892, para. 14), with priority given to military and civilian police functions, yet civilian functions deserved equal consideration. Moreover, Japan would like the Advisory Committee to confirm that 4 of the 34 temporary posts in question would be reserved for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters.

51. It was his understanding that the Secretary-General had been asked to phase out expeditiously only type II gratis personnel in conjunction with a full-cost budgeting of the Organization. In order not to compromise mandated activities, it was essential to convert appropriate gratis positions to temporary posts, particularly in view of the Advisory Committee's opinion (A/52/890, para. 4) that practically all functions assigned to the gratis personnel should be performed by staff members, and that it was the lack of adequate staff resources that gave rise to the acceptance of type II gratis personnel. The Secretariat must therefore recruit qualified staff as soon as possible.

52. Japan supported the revised guidelines for type II gratis personnel set out in document A/52/698, on the basis of full-cost budgeting, together with the proposed revision by the Legal Counsel regarding third-party claims (A/52/890, annex I). However, the final guidelines should, as ACABQ had pointed out (A/52/890, para. 8), deal also with the other entities, and not simply Governments, that could provide and had in fact provided gratis personnel.

53. **Mr. Saha** (India) said that the backstopping provisions of the support account proposal in document A/52/837 did not take into account the dynamic nature of peacekeeping, for the proposal had not addressed the impact of the decline in the number of troops, of the changing requirements of operations in the field or the differing requirements of low- and high-intensity periods of peacekeeping activity. Nor had the proposal considered areas of duplication between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other departments.

54. The questions and issues raised by Canada and the United Kingdom were pertinent and must be discussed in detail. India also endorsed the Advisory Committee's comprehensive comments on related issues that should have been addressed in document A/52/837. Without information on such issues, there could be no informed decisions about the legitimate staffing requirements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

55. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) wished to know what the financial implications of the ACABQ recommendation (A/52/892, para. 2) that in future the vacancy factor for support account posts should be increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent to offset the effects of the variance between average and actual salary costs, bearing in mind paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 51/239 and considering the further ACABQ recommendation (para. 14) that 30 vacant posts should be filled.

56. The Secretary-General's report on the support account (A/52/837) was a good attempt to review all backstopping staff requirements, but his delegation also wished to know why the Secretariat had not provided in time the information still being requested by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/52/892, paras. 8, 10 and 13).

57. Pakistan supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the conversion of posts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/243, and was pleased that the phasing out of gratis personnel would be completed by the end of 1998, assuming, of course, that arrangements would be made not to jeopardize the functioning of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Bearing in mind that there were only 124 gratis military officers in professional posts in the Department, however, it was not clear why the Secretary-General was proposing in document A/52/837 (para. 20) to recruit active-duty officers for only 36 out of the 106 posts to be converted from active military or police service.

58. His delegation believed that the Advisory Committee's recommendation to defer full approval of the support account proposal until October 1998 would seriously hamper orderly planning of activities within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It agreed, however, with ACABQ that it was contrary to the provisions of resolution 51/243 to accept type II gratis personnel for lack of adequate staff resources or because of a failure to recruit staff expeditiously (A/52/890, paras. 4 and 6), and that the Secretary-General's quarterly reports should clearly demonstrate that gratis personnel had been accepted in accordance with the requisite criteria (para. 7). The Secretariat's assurance that it would ask only Member States to provide gratis personnel, in accordance with resolution 51/243, should be specified in the Committee's resolution on the issue.

59. There had been a welcome acceleration in the phasing out of gratis personnel, accompanied by a welcome decrease in the number of type II gratis personnel and receiving departments.

60. **Mr. Lozinski** (Russian Federation) said that because his delegation had received the reports on the support account only a few days earlier, it had been unable to study

the matter in depth. The Secretariat must take steps to address the ongoing problem of late issuance of documentation in order to avoid repeating that situation in the future.

61. In the view of his delegation, the report of the Secretary-General raised more questions than it answered. He agreed with ACABQ that the report should have been more goal-oriented and analytical in nature and that its conclusions were not convincingly supported by the results of the analysis. The linkage between the dollar level of active peacekeeping operations and the backstopping workload performed at Headquarters (A/52/837, para. 32) should receive further study. His delegation had also noted a number of inaccuracies in the report and agreed with the Advisory Committee that reliable statistics were essential. Because those two problems precluded the possibility of further consideration both by ACABQ and the Fifth Committee, there was no alternative to postponing the deadline for taking a final decision on the financing of the account. In addition, the Secretariat should make every effort to provide correct information and to take the comments of Member States into account.

62. His delegation continued to believe that financial reports on peacekeeping operations should not presume to include political evaluations of the situation in a particular "hot spot". His delegation had been surprised, to say the least, that the Secretary-General's report had contained political and irrelevant material, and he urged the Secretariat to take another approach.

63. **Mr. Ayoub** ((Iraq) endorsed the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

64. With reference to the reports by the Secretary-General (A/52/709) and the Advisory Committee (A/52/890) on gratis personnel, he asked why personnel provided gratis by some countries for assignment to UNSCOM who had previously been classified as type II personnel had, according to paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, been reclassified as type I. He also wished to know what the financial implications of that reclassification were, since the support costs came from frozen Iraqi assets.

65. **Mr. Gjesdal** (Norway) endorsed the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom, and said that Norway, which had always provided large peacekeeping contingents, believed that Headquarters resource needs for peacekeeping activities should be funded through the regular budget as far as possible, thus reflecting the priority given to such activities by the international community. The Secretary-General should be given the necessary resources to carry out mandates, meet the backstopping requirements for closure of operations and plan for future specialist and surge requirements.

66. The three essentials for effective coverage of backstopping functions were a permanent core capacity, a variable capacity to support ongoing missions, and an additional capacity to support the liquidation of completed missions. The first should be funded from the regular budget and the other two from the support account. His delegation continued to believe that the concept of a permanent core capacity was useful and indispensable for proper decisions on the programme budget and the support account.

67. Norway welcomed the funding method for the support account introduced two years earlier, based on actual backstopping requirements as foreseen at the time of the adoption of an annual support account budget, which allowed that budget period to match the one for peacekeeping operations. However, it was concerned that the one-year submission might not allow for proper planning and might be used as a pretext for delegations to micromanage the deployment of personnel, the details of which should be left to the Secretary-General. It should not be necessary, moreover, for the General Assembly to reconfirm the support account after three to six months. Accordingly, his delegation was disappointed at the ACABQ suggestion that final approval of the support account should be put off until the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, thus undermining the reformed budget cycle. The previous year, the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly had both gone along with a full-year approval on the basis of a much more incomplete Secretariat submission.

68. Even as backstopping requirements changed, it was essential for the United Nations to retain its ability to carry out mandates in that priority area despite the decision to phase out gratis personnel. Norway agreed with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that transitional arrangements should minimize disruption, loss of continuity and loss of expertise. The plans for phasing out gratis personnel should be gradually prepared as individual tours of duty expired.

69. **Mr. Euy Taek Kim** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to create eight new support account posts for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, but had some reservations regarding the proposed staffing of 469 temporary posts, which included 20 new posts and 106 posts converted from gratis personnel. It could not understand why the number of support account posts had been maintained or even increased, while overall expenses for peacekeeping operations were declining. The Secretariat had not argued

persuasively that there was no direct linkage between the overall operational costs and the backstopping workload (A/52/837, para. 32), or that the 55 regular budget posts together with the 224 currently authorized support account posts would not be adequate to support the anticipated workload (para. 22). It was, moreover, regrettable that the Secretariat had again failed to provide sufficient statistics and explanatory information in time to enable the Advisory Committee to complete its consideration of the Secretary-General's request for new encumbered posts. That had prompted the understandable ACABQ recommendation to convert 34 gratis personnel positions to temporary posts while making use of the 30 vacancies currently available for the interim period ending October 1998.

70. His delegation was satisfied with the current pace of the phasing out of the more than 200 gratis personnel, but cautioned that such a large-scale withdrawal by the end of 1998 should not be allowed to undermine operational efficiency. Noting with concern that the acceptance of gratis personnel inevitably involved additional associated costs, such as secretarial and administrative backstopping, which could amount to as much as 18 per cent of the entire cost of gratis personnel, his delegation shared the Secretary-General's view in document A/52/823 that it was unreasonable for those additional costs to be absorbed through the assessed contributions of all Members. The donors of gratis personnel should themselves bear those costs, as a matter of principle.

71. ACABQ was correct in contending that insufficient staff resources rather than the need for specialized functions resulted in the acceptance of type II gratis personnel. In that regard, however, there should be full compliance with the criteria prescribed by the General Assembly in resolution 51/243.

72. His delegation welcomed the revised guidelines for type II gratis personnel set out in document A/52/698 and hoped the next quarterly report would again provide detailed information on the duration of service of gratis personnel and the functions they performed.

73. **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) said that his delegation endorsed the statement by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China concerning gratis personnel and also took note of the issues raised by the representative of Pakistan. His delegation was concerned that the acceptance of type II gratis personnel provided by Governments would tend to undermine paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 51/243. It would be a false savings to bring in gratis personnel to perform work that staff should be doing, and the acceptance of the practice had been necessary only to make up for the failure of the Secretariat to recruit qualified staff.

74. With regard to the arguments on loss of continuity and expertise, he pointed out that the loyalties of gratis personnel lay with their Governments rather than the Organization; furthermore, such personnel could be withdrawn at any time, one of the main reasons behind the call for their elimination. The Organization should concentrate on recruiting international civil servants. It was also regrettable that gratis personnel had been used to negotiate on behalf of the Organization regarding contingent-owned equipment.

75. **Ms. Duschner** (Canada) said that the questions raised by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union were worthy of review. Her delegation aligned itself with that statement and looked forward to receiving the answers to the questions raised.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.